

## BOOK REVIEW

JAMES K. AGEE. 2007. **Steward's Fork: A Sustainable Future for the Klamath Mountains.** (ISBN-10: 0520251253, ISBN-13: 978-0520251250, hbk.). University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu), [orders@cpfsinc.com](mailto:orders@cpfsinc.com), 800-777-4726). \$42.00, 306 pp., black/white photographs, line illustrations, 7 maps, 6" × 9".

The Klamath Mountains, and more particularly the Trinity and Marble Mountains, of California are the area that Agee discusses with much love and insight. But his insights are of value to those living beyond these mountains as well. The discussions of the use of the natural resources, the continued use and care of the land, and the principles of how to responsibly manage those ecosystems can be applied anywhere in the world.

The first chapters in the text cover the geologic development of the area, the flora and fauna, and the native peoples. A story of Agee's efforts to retrace and best Alice Eastwood's collecting survey along Canyon Creek in 1901 is engaging and enlightening, particularly so when he reveals that even with a checklist in hand he was unable to surpass her count. The description of his attempt and of the collecting area enables one to learn the history and other information about the area during his telling. Other chapters cover the indigenous peoples and their impact on the ecosystem, mining, livestock grazing, and water issues. Final chapters cover his views on how we can provide proper stewardship for a sustainable future.

Agee is able to use his memories of time and place to make the present and future both real and attainable. He writes with considerable skill and is able to use his memories as both story and moral. Regarding choices he reveals that as a child riding inner tubes on the Stuart Fork he did not always take the best fork of the channel and as a consequence was dunked or flipped over. But he retrieved his tube and tried again. He had limited knowledge of what was downstream but adjusted his course along the way. We now have the same challenge in choosing a course for the Klamath Mountains and for the rest of our ecosystems.

*Steward's Fork* is well illustrated with excellent images and maps. Concluding the book are an index, appendices, and a remarkable bibliography. The bibliography is arranged by chapter and cites books, periodicals, and web sites. As one who first turns to the bibliography of any new book that lands in my hands to determine its possible value as a research tool, this book was impressive and is recommended for any library or for anyone interested in the area. It will appeal to general readers as well as professionals and specialists.—Gary L. Jennings, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.